

**SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

SUBJECT: Request for funding from the Young Performing Artists (YPAs) (Staff Recommends Approval).

REQUESTED ACTION: Approve funding for the Young Performing Artists

☐ Work Session (Report Only) **DATE OF MEETING:** 9/27/2011
☒ Regular Meeting ☐ Special Meeting

CONTRACT: ☒ N/A Vendor/Entity: _____
Effective Date: _____ Termination Date: _____
Managing Division / Dept: _____

BUDGET IMPACT: \$1,131.70
☒ Annual **FUNDING SOURCE:** 191-335700 FL Arts Shared Revenue
☐ Capital **EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT:** 191-191-573-3400 Other Services
☐ N/A

HISTORY/FACTS/ISSUES:

The Young Performing Artists (YPAs) has requested funding in the amount of \$1,131.70 from the Florida Arts License Plate program to help sustain and continue local programs.

The attached documents contains the following:

Multi- Project Description and funding amounts:

1) \$1131.70 - 'School Cultural Art Education Program' is our school-based program whose mission is to provide quality performances, entertainment, exhibitions, etc. to Sumter County's school age children. This program is our contribution to ensuring that Sumter's youth receive a well-rounded education, which includes the ability to understand, respond to, and talk about images. It is the program's intent to bring understanding that an art education stimulates language—spoken and written, have the power to entice students into the learning process, engage all the senses, involve creative discovery and self-expression and promotes enthusiasm for learning in children of all ages. Since 2001, the BOCC, along with other noted local sponsors, has helped YPAs, Inc. present this program, which can include the 9 ft. puppet production of classic children stories and a steel drum band.



Young Performing Artists (YPAs)
Young Performing Artists (YPAs)

Not for Profit
501 (c) (3) Corporation
9060 County Road 231
Wildwood, FL 34785

September 20, 2011

Sumter Board of County Commissioners

Executive Summary- Florida Art License Plate program

We are seeking Florida Art License Plate program funding in the amount of \$1131.40 to help sustain and continue to provide our local programs outlined in this proposal.

In this low economy, it is very exciting to state that this organization is realizing benefits from its board of directors' strategic plans over the past the years. Of course, we like many others are feeling the brunt of the low economy while still trying to maintain and sustain our proven projects and programs.

Now, in our 13th year, the organization has increased its culture, historic, artistic and enrichment programs in Sumter County, FL especially via our long-standing School Cultural Art & Educational program, outlined herein.

During this school year, the School Cultural Art & Educational program will celebrate a 10-year collaboration with Sumter District Schools to provide professional theatrical children productions to Sumter's school age children. This program has allowed us to present theatrical productions to children across the county, from The Villages to South Sumter Middle School, serving approx. 5- 6000 students.

PHONE: 352-748-2008
FAX: 352-748-1536

In the past, we have received a Division of Cultural Affairs grant for 2/3 of the professional production company's fees. Locally, this program has been supported by a combination of 2/3 state grant funding, designated for underserved counties, and 1/3 local support including this Board's sponsorships via the Sumter Art Tag funding.

This year, we are not in the first grouping of state funding due to the last census reporting Sumter's population 75,000+. Therefore, requiring us to cut back the number of production companies presenting due to decrease in funding.

This Florida Art License Plate program funding will afford us to move forward and continue our efforts to build and provide enriching art, culture and history opportunities, as outlined herewith.

For more information or contact me, you may email at youngartists@aol.com or call at 352-748-2008.

Yours For Children,

Steele

Beverly Steele
Founder



The Musical Tale of
Peter Rabbit

presented by Bits 'N Pieces Puppet Theatre

Goals:

Continue to strengthen our annual school based project entitled 'School Cultural Art Education Program' that has addressed approximately 5000 out of the 8000 Sumter school age children since its inception in 2001.

Objectives:

1) Provide creative opportunities to youth development via the arts, culture and history. 2) Continue to stimulate community and countywide participation and support for art, culture and history programs. 3) Address the limited exposure to the 'Arts' within Sumter County's schools, economy and way of life. 4) Offer free and affordable programs for all ages, especially children. 5) Offer public programs/ events that involve an underserved arts county in supporting history, culture, enriching lives, the arts and children.

Methods/ Activities:

1. Present the 'The Musical Tale of Peter Rabbit' by Bits 'N Pieces Puppet Theatre. This is an original musical adaptation performed by unique giant puppets and live actor Holli Rubin. Children will see that Momma Rabbit knows best as Peter learns the lesson, "It's better to be good than bad!"
2. Bring a professional theatrical production experience directly to Sumter County District school age children within their own environment. The production company has carried this message to children across the United States, in Europe and throughout Asia. They have been perfecting the art of the giant puppet for more than 35 years.
3. Introduce quality production companies that provide resources and educational study guides designed to Florida's state standards for teachers.

Results/ evaluation of program:

1. This is a continuation of collaboration with the Sumter District Schools in presenting these productions of classic children novels via this non- traditional but educational format using giant body puppets. It has been and continues to be a good collaboration.
2. The sheer increase in number of thanks received from the students and teachers, countywide.

3. We are enjoying a high level of collaboration with other local government agencies, i.e. county/city/state administration, economic development, chamber, fair association, historical society, libraries, etc.
4. We have agreements with both Wildwood Middle High & The Villages High Schools alerting their students of volunteer opportunities with our programming.
5. All local press continues to cover our activities.

Multi- Project Description and funding amounts:

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Sustainability

YPAs, Inc. has been awarded a Target grant which will serve as a cash match for this funding.

The board of Young Performing Artists (YPAs), Inc is fully committed to raising funds for the organization’s future programs and to sustain the organization in this economic times.

Marketing & promotion

Local Print Media- Young Performing Artists (YPAs), Inc. has been successful in garnering a strong local print media relationship. Our local media that includes the Sumter Times, The Daily Commercial, The Daily Sun, the Sumter Express and the Lake Sentinel edition of the Orlando Sentinel covers all of our events, sometimes simultaneously. We enjoy coverage in local magazine print media, i.e. Lake & Sumter Style Magazine.

Collaborative coverage- as a member of the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, we post our events on their Website.

Internet coverage- we post all our events on our website; recently established organizational facebook, twitter and youtube sites.

Mailings- we have a mailing listing with approximately 600 local and statewide individuals, businesses, supporters and contributors for post card, poster and invitation mailings.

Accessibility

It is our standing policy that all the facilities where our programs are offered must be in compliance with ADA standards and open to all to enjoy regardless of race, creed, color or gender. Most of our programs are free or donations accepted or priced very affordable. We pull a large portion of our volunteers via senior programs as the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Workforce Central Florida's Experience Works program and Workforce Central Florida's Welfare Transition Program. Also, we do not charge a membership fee to join the organization nor to participate in any of its programs. We keep our school based programs, free to all students. It is our board policy to provide our services, programs, and events to a diverse population without an extra financial burden.